## October 28, 2010 meeting minutes Cambridge GLBT Commission

## **NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2010**

Call to Order

Toni Snow recorded these minutes.

<u>Commissioners Present:</u> John Gintell, Sarav Chidambaram, Toni Snow, Leslie Phillips, Tony Wieczorek, Steven Lee, Mal Malme, Bob Parlin, Jeff Walker

<u>Commissioners Absent:</u> (excused) – Kevin Shpritzer, Colby Berger, and Priscilla Lee

- <u>Guests:</u> Supt. Chris Burke, and Lt. Stephen Ahern, Cambridge Police Dept., Colleen Johnston, Human Rights Commission, Ed Byrne (CRLS) and Erin Stone (member of public).
- Media Item: John G. was contacted by a Harvard Crimson reporter regarding a movement to re-instate and award degrees posthumously to the 7 "homosexual" students who were expelled from Harvard in 1920s for being gay. Commission is referenced and John G. and Bob P. are quoted in the article. We will discuss further at a future meeting.
- I. **Update on Self Defense Workshop:** Workshop is tabled until spring to allow more time to strategize for recruitment. We discussed holding it at CRLS and allowing non-Cambridge students to participate. Mal M. will work with Ed Byrne and make presentation at CRLS.
- II. **Update on CRLS P10E**: Guest presenter Ed Byrne, diversity coordinator. Last year's P10E participation was comprised of mostly younger students and these students (now 10<sup>th</sup> graders) continue to be involved, along with more upper class members. P10E group still lacks racial, ethnic diversity. Over the past year P10E students participated in numerous events including GLBT Commission CCTV video, Laramie Project 10 years later, CRLS National Coming Out Day personal stories, a media rich "Make it Better" project in response to national "It Gets Better" campaign. Upcoming agenda is to bring focus to CRLS re transgender issues. Kim Deandre and Melody Brazo are offering voluntary faculty trainings around GLBT bullying. CE credits available. There is overall an improved administrative support of diversity coordinator's role Ed B. is asked to participate much more in academic, behavior, attendance issues. Transgender awareness week coming up Nov 15<sup>th</sup>. Saturday Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> is Transgender Awareness vigil. P10E meets on Thursdays at 2:45pm John G. will try to attend.
- III. **Tuesday, Nov 9<sup>th</sup> 6-9pm "World Café" at Sr. Center**: City to set priorities and goals for future. Steven Lee will represent Commission at meeting.
- IV. Review of procedures to recruit new members. Not discussed.
- V. **Bullying Task Force Anti-Bullying Legislation, Chris Burke**: (Please see attached summary of "Chapter 92 of the Acts of 2010, An Act relative to Bullying in Schools."

Bullying is not criminal and school has latitude in defining policy. Chris B. has handout that he'll send to John G. Focus is to identify ways to educate and redirect bullies. Because school-aged people are involved, the first interest is for diversionary programs unless behaviors are extreme. Is there a Task Force plan for anti-bullying training? Yes, training is broad and not GLBT specific – includes bystander issues. Each town and city must have a plan for training. It's an unfunded mandate. No guarantee that it will be adopted statewide.

- VI. **Danehy Park Family Day Sept. 25th**: Event was well attended and all remaining tote bags were distributed in exchange for completed survey questionnaires. Data compiled by John G.
- VII. **NCOD Video and Future Projects**: Sarav C. and John G. and others worked with CCTV to produce a video for National Coming Out Day. Video is running now. Experience was a good one and we discussed doing our own CCTV version of an "It Gets Better" campaign for Cambridge.
- VIII. Out & Equal Workplace Summit: Sarav C. attended this conference (on behalf of his employer) in Los Angeles in October. GLBT Commission should aim for sending a representative next year. The theme was marriage equality. The issue of how health insurance for same sex couples is reported as IRS income and the resulting tax burden was raised, but discussion was limited due to an absence of federal government reps at the meeting. As we have discussed at previous Commission meetings, this can be significant financial burden for couples/families. Sarav will send a report to the City Manager with a request to present the topic to City Council. Could we invite GLAD to speak to us re the issue? Sarav will write report and talk to GLAD. Someone should also speak with Cambridge Personnel Dept./Mike Gardner.
- IX. **Setting Goals**: Discussed best way to accomplish goal setting for coming year. We will meet separately to explore further, but perhaps it's time to hold another Town Meeting. John G. will meet with Rich Rossi in November. We need more City support.
- X. **Update on GLBT sensitivity training for Fire Dept. and EMT employees**. This item has been stalled for several months. Chris B. will contact Chief Reardon and GOAL New England to move things along. Potential for trainings to be held this year and to include Harvard and MIT campus police.

**Announcement**: Bob P. is hosting a pot luck brunch for Commission members at his home on Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.